

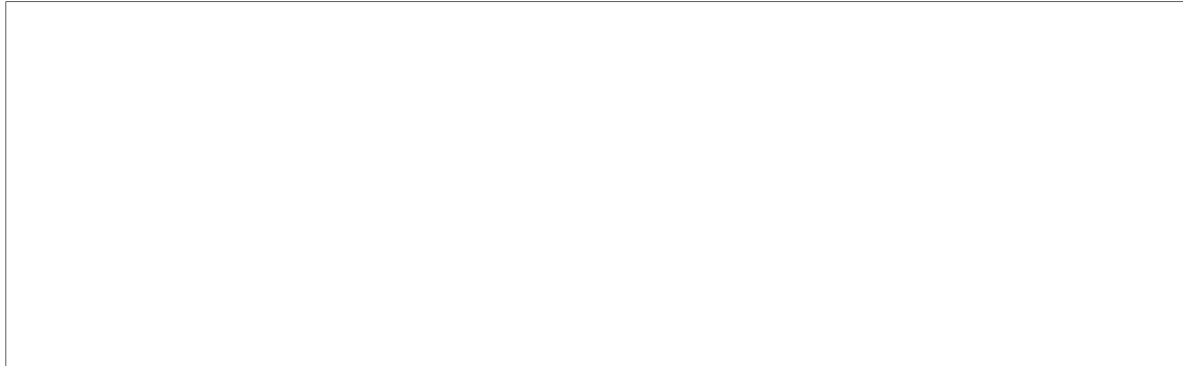
IAC-D-57/60
21 March 1957

Post-Mortem on NIE 13-57:
Communist China Through 1961,
dated 19 March 1957

I. Findings

1. The most important single body of political and economic information on Communist China consists of official statements, broadcasts, and newspapers. This type of material is available in adequate quantity, with the exception of certain regional and local newspapers that are available, if at all, only spasmodically and after considerable delay. Most of the official material can throw considerable light on internal developments if allowances are made for certain usually fairly obvious distortions and for the Communist viewpoint of the originators and intended audience.

50X1 2. Reports obtained from non-Communist sources--the



3. The chief intelligence deficiency concerning political and economic developments in Communist China lies in the reliance in many categories on Communist sources, rendering intelligence in those areas particularly vulnerable to misinterpretation of Communist data and to Communist efforts at concealment or dissimulation. Thus the chief need in these fields is to develop and improve independent sources of information.

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4. Within the above limitations, we believe that the following categories should continue to receive priority attention in the exploitation of existing sources and the development of new ones:

a. Popular reaction to the Communist regime, particularly to the Communist drive to socialize agriculture.

b. The effectiveness of the regime's efforts to increase agricultural production.

c. The volume and quality of output in machine building, armaments, and the volume of railroads, inland water, and ocean traffic.

d. Specific detailed knowledge of the armed forces including policy and doctrine, command structure, unit organization, strength, equipment, stockpiles, training, and other military activity.

e. The relations between the Chinese Communist Party and the indigenous Communist parties in Asia.

f. Sino-Soviet relations including the formulation and communication of policy decisions, the amount and nature of Soviet economic assistance, and the role of each in furnishing guidance to the Communist parties within and without the Bloc.

g. The relations between Communist China and the non-Communist Asian countries.

II. Action

5. The IAC agencies are requested to examine their collection efforts and their methods of processing data to see what can be done to remedy the major intelligence deficiencies, particularly in regard to the priority categories listed above.

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